* Building technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation,Technical resource groups, operational research and programme management.

**AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE**

**December, 2003**
**UNDER EMBARGO**
**Until 1400 GMT**
**25 November, 2003**

**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

The epidemic is spreading into areas and countries where, until recently, there was little or no HIV present—including China, Indonesia and Vietnam (home to over 1.5 billion people)

National adult HIV prevalence is still under 1% in the majority of this region's countries.

Three Asian countries have already had to contend with serious nationwide epidemics: Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand.

**Advertisements of sexual stimulants**

†2067. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that advertisements, regarding increasing the sexual power are published openly in various magazines and displayed on walls of Delhi and surrounding thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by Government against the advertising companies for violating the laws?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Government are aware that advertisements to increase sexual power are being published in various

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

magazines and displayed on the walls in Delhi and surrounding areas. Advertising drugs and therapies for this purpose attract the provisions of Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954.

(b) and (c) To implement the provisions of Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and to initiate-action against the violation of the Act. The Government of India has taken the following action:

(i) Drug Controllers of the State Governments have been requested to establish monitoring cells and initiate action against the violators of the Act.

(ii) An agency has been given the job to collect misleading advertisements appearing in the magazines & newspapers and send to the State Drug Controllers so that they can initiate action the offenders.

(iii) In the year 2002 & 2003, following State Governments have given notices to the violators of the Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (a) Delhi | - | 64 |
| (b) Maharashtra | - | 62 |
| (c) Gujarat | - | 28 |
| (d) Karnataka | - | 10 |

(iv) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has consulted Medical Council of India, Central Council of Indian Medicine and Central Council of Homoeopathy in this regard as this is a violation of medical ethics. Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has constituted a Medical Ethics Committee also to sensitize the professionals.

**Discrepancies in health services due to privatization**

†2068. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of discrepancies have emerged into the health services due to increasing tendency of privatization as per the Human Development Report of the year 2003;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.